

Anxious for Nothing:
When You Just Can't Decide

TALK IT OVER

How is everyone doing right now? Do you have any needs? (Push a little here. Everyone is dealing with the virus and isolation so make sure you know how your people are doing. Prescriptions for antidepressants have risen 34% since early March. This is a hot button topic right now. Be gentle.)

Read Acts 15:1-21 and Philippians 4:4-7 (On 2nd page. It's in the NLT version but feel free to read from a different one.) Once you've read the passages ask these questions:

- What new thing did you discover in the story that you did not know before?
- What did you learn about God? (Joe talked about the early church keeping it simple. Why do you think they did that? They said in V. 28 it seemed good to the Holy Spirit. What does that mean to you? God had the early church give very few guidelines. Why do you think He did that and what does that say to you? God kept it simple to allow Gentiles turning to him. Why is that such a big deal [contrast this to how we often overcomplicate things]? Joe said that God has a way of bringing good things out of our wrong turns. How have you seen that in your life?)
- What did you learn about people? (Joe talked about getting stuck b/c of too many choices and being afraid of making the wrong choice. Did that resonate with you? Do you struggle with this? How? If God is calling for us to keep it simple why do you think we have a tendency to complicate it [especially when it comes to church or God]? If God doesn't speak to us through a spirit of fear why do we listen to it so much? Joe said that so many of us have a dream God has given us yet we don't act on it BECAUSE of fear. Is that anyone here? What did you think when Joe said there's zero reason for us to fear [b/c God brings good things out of wrong turns]?)
- What will you take away from this discussion?
- What will you do with what you have learned? (Are there things/dreams God has given you that you have not acted on? What do you need to do to start? What is fear keeping you from? When Joe said that someone needed to release things and surrender to the freedom of Jesus what did God bring to mind for you? **IF ANYONE NEEDS TO BE PUT IN TOUCH WITH A MENTAL HELP PROFESSIONAL CONTACT ONE OF THE STAFF IMMEDIATELY**)
- Is there anything else you wanted to share that we didn't hit in this discussion?
- Next week make sure to read 1 Corinthians 7:1-16. Think through the questions we ask weekly as you read.

Encourage your small group to do a watch party on Facebook with the LIVE Sunday service for our NEW series **The One** this Sunday. Ask them to invite coworkers and friends to watch with them at 10:10. Also, make sure to comment as you watch on the feed to encourage community and discussion.

Make sure to check in with your SG this week. We are all going through a lot. How can you pray for them? This is where the discipleship aspect comes in. Work towards identifying your 3 (that you can really pour into) and then your 1 (that person that will replicate what you're doing now). Take a few minutes each day and make a text or phone call to everyone in the group.

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Make sure to read ahead of time and either retell the story or have someone (multiple people) help you retelling the story. Make sure to use your update with points from Brad's sermon.

Acts 15:1-21 (NLT)

The Council at Jerusalem

15 While Paul and Barnabas were at Antioch of Syria, some men from Judea arrived and began to teach the believers^[a]. “Unless you are circumcised as required by the law of Moses, you cannot be saved.”² Paul and Barnabas disagreed with them, arguing vehemently. Finally, the church decided to send Paul and Barnabas to Jerusalem, accompanied by some local believers, to talk to the apostles and elders about this question.³ The church sent the delegates to Jerusalem, and they stopped along the way in Phoenicia and Samaria to visit the believers. They told them—much to everyone's joy—that the Gentiles, too, were being converted.

⁴ When they arrived in Jerusalem, Barnabas and Paul were welcomed by the whole church, including the apostles and elders. They reported everything God had done through them.⁵ But then some of the believers who belonged to the sect of the Pharisees stood up and insisted, “The Gentile converts must be circumcised and required to follow the law of Moses.”

⁶ So the apostles and elders met together to resolve this issue.⁷ At the meeting, after a long discussion, Peter stood and

addressed them as follows: “Brothers, you all know that God chose me from among you some time ago to preach to the Gentiles so that they could hear the Good News and believe.⁸ God knows people's hearts, and he confirmed that he accepts Gentiles by giving them the Holy Spirit, just as he did to us.⁹ He made no distinction between us and them, for he cleansed their hearts through faith.¹⁰ So why are you now challenging God by burdening the Gentile believers^[b] with a yoke that neither we nor our ancestors were able to bear?¹¹ We believe that we are all saved the same way, by the undeserved grace of the Lord Jesus.”

¹² Everyone listened quietly as Barnabas and Paul told about the miraculous signs and wonders God had done through them among the Gentiles.

¹³ When they had finished, James stood and said, “Brothers, listen to me.¹⁴ Peter^[c] has told you about the time God first visited the Gentiles to take from them a people for himself.¹⁵ And this conversion of Gentiles is exactly what the prophets predicted. As it is written:

¹⁶ ‘Afterward I will return
and restore the fallen house^[d] of David.

I will rebuild its ruins
and restore it,

¹⁷ so that the rest of humanity might seek the LORD,
including the Gentiles—
all those I have called to be mine.

The LORD has spoken—

¹⁸ he who made these things known so long ago.’^[e]

¹⁹ “And so my judgment is that we should not make it difficult for the Gentiles who are turning to God.²⁰ Instead, we should write and tell them to abstain from eating food offered to idols, from sexual immorality, from eating the meat of strangled animals, and from consuming blood.²¹ For these laws of Moses have been preached in Jewish synagogues in every city on every Sabbath for many generations.”

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Philippians 4:4-7 (NLT)

⁴ Always be full of joy in the Lord. I say it again—rejoice! ⁵ Let everyone see that you are considerate in all you do. Remember, the Lord is coming soon.^[a]

⁶ Don't worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done. ⁷ Then you will experience God's peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus